

REMARKS

Currently, claims 1-39 are pending in the application, of which claims 1, 7, 11, 21, 25 and 32 are independent. In view of the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Allowed/Allowable Claims

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 11-20 and 25-39 are allowed and claims 3-5, 10, 12 and 24 contain allowable subject matter. While Applicants agree these claims are patentable over the cited references, Applicants do not agree that patentability resides in each feature exactly as expressed in the claims, nor that each feature is required for patentability of each claim.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,085,973 issued to Shimizu, et al. ("Shimizu") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,801,293 issued to Nishiyama, *et al.* ("Nishiyama") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,847,793 issued to Itoh ("Itoh"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

This application claims priority from Korean Patent Application No. 2000-25465 filed on May 12, 2000. Nishiyama is derived from PCT Application No. PCT/JP00/07011 filed October 6, 2000 and its §371 date is April 5, 2002.

To have an effective filing date as a reference of October 6, 2000, the PCT application from which Nishiyama is based must (a) have been filed on or after November 29, 2000, (b) have designated the U. S. and (c) have been published in English under PCT article 21(2) by WIPO. See MPEP §706.02(a). As Nishiyama is based on a PCT application filed on October 6, 2000, it fails to meet the requirement of being filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the PCT application was not published in English, as shown in the front page of WO 01/25843, which is attached hereto for the Examiner's convenience. Therefore, as a reference, Nishiyama has an effective filing date of April 5, 2002.

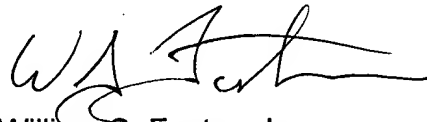
Since the priority date of the present application is earlier than the effective filing date of Nishiyama, it is submitted that Nishiyama does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Since the rejection is based on a reference that is not prior art, it is submitted that the rejection is inappropriate. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1, 2, 6-9, 21 and 22.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response; the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution. Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



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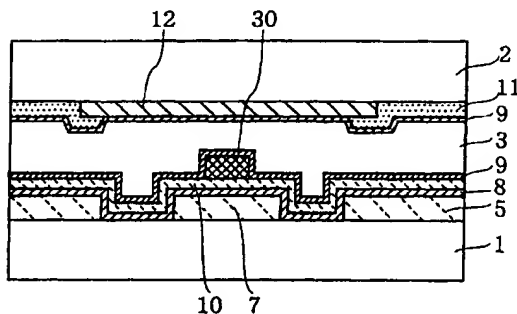
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(54) Title: LIQUID CRYSTAL ELEMENT, LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE AND PRODUCTION METHODS THERE-
FOR

(54) 発明の名称: 液晶素子、液晶表示装置及びそれらの製造方法



(57) Abstract: Curing of a sealing resin by UV radiation after liquid crystal sealing is made positive. The display character-
istics of a horizontal electric field type liquid crystal element
is improved. To meet the above requirements, the viscosity of
the sealing resin is lowered, and bubbles mixed into the sealing
resin are removed by an ultrasonic wave or the like. In addi-
tion, actions to eliminate ions and electric charge in the liquid
crystal layer are taken.

(57) 要約:

液晶を封入した後の封口用樹脂の紫外線照射による硬化を確実なも
のとする。

横電界方式の液晶素子の表示特性等を改善する

上記課題を解決するために、封口用樹脂の粘度を低くし、併せて封
口用樹脂内部へ混入した気泡を超音波等で除去する。

また、液晶層内のイオン、電荷を消す手段を講じる。

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- 国際調査報告書
- 請求の範囲の補正の期限前の公開であり、補正書受領の際には再公開される。

2文字コード及び他の略語については、定期発行される各PCTガゼットの巻頭に掲載されている「コードと略語のガイダンスノート」を参照。